

**ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 22, 2012**

The Island County Council of Governments met in regular session on August 22, 2012 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Nancy Conard at 9:00 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/cog/2012/>

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Larry Kwarsick, Mayor, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

Members Absent: Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor

Also Present: Ron Nelson, Island County Economic Development Council

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approved the minutes of the June 27, 2012 regular meeting. By unanimous vote the June 27, 2012 minutes were approved.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION

Vouchers for Sustainable Whidbey Coalition were provided. It was moved and seconded to approve the SWC vouchers. Motion carried. Commissioner Emerson abstained.

Commissioner Curt Gordon suggested that since Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association (SICBA) has a green building program that they be invited to serve as the governing board for Sustainable Whidbey Coalition. Chair Conard said she would welcome SICBA as board members. They would only need to become SWC members. Chair Conard will reach out to Wayne Crider at SCBA.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION – Ron Nelson

Ron Nelson, Executive Director of Island County EDC, presented a County Economic Update and a Demographic Update. He also provided handouts of his PowerPoint presentation.

Economic Update

State Economic Forecast:

- Employment is up
- Construction permits up
- Homes prices 1st time since '07 up
- New Vehicles – highest since '08 but July is down
- Inflation – June 2.7% compared to US 1.7%

EDC Observations for Island County:

- Business owners remain cautious
- Construction flat (at least not falling)
- Retail – business owners – things are flat
- Perceptions – investors and businesses cautious

Demographics

North Whidbey has highest population at almost 37,000, South Whidbey has 13,000-14,000 and Central Whidbey has 12,000. Camano's population is about 15,000.

Island County's population has increased 9.7% since 2000. Freeland has had the highest increase in population with Camano CCD 2nd.

Housing Growth – Occupied Housing Units is up in all areas with Freeland up the highest.

2010 Age Distribution – in, South Whidbey, Central Whidbey and Camano the highest ages distribution is from 55 - 69 years. North Whidbey is from 25 – 29 years and this can be contributed to the base.

The median income for Camano Island, Central Whidbey, and South Whidbey is well over the US median income. North Whidbey is less than the US average. In Camano Island, Central Whidbey and South Whidbey the households receiving social security is well over the US average. Households with retirement income for all of Whidbey Island and Camano Island is higher than the US average. A bit concerning is households receiving cash public assistance or food stamps (SNAP) for all of Whidbey Island and Camano Island is well above the US average. The lowest median income is in and around the Oak Harbor area. The highest median income is in the Langley area and the area near West Beach Road.

Education – Whidbey Island and Camano Island have a higher number of populations with Associate's Degree than the US average. Whidbey Island has a high number of educated people.

Summary

- Population aging faster than US average
- Government assistance higher than US average
- Education – more degrees than US average
- Population growing the same as US average
- Housing growing faster than US average

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

There were no items of mutual interest.

Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2012.

Approved